

REUTERS
18 March 1983

WASHINGTON
NUCLEAR-ROWNY

Secretary of State George Shultz has complete confidence in embattled U.S. arms control negotiator Edward Rowny, a spokesman said today after a senator called for Rowny to resign.

Rowny, a former army general who is chief U.S. negotiator in the Strategic Arms Reduction (START) talks, is under fire for preparing a "hit list" of American arms control officials he thought were too soft and should be purged.

Democratic presidential candidate Gary Hart, a senator from Colorado who was on the list, yesterday called for Rowny's resignation.

But State Department spokesman John Hughes told reporters today: "Secretary of State (George) Shultz has full confidence in Ambassador Rowny."

Hughes said he has no reason to believe the Secretary does not also have confidence in the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency (ACDA) officials on the "hit list," which Rowny reportedly provided to Kenneth Adelman, President Reagan's nominee to head the agency. Adelman has denied any knowledge of the list.

Hughes had no comment on news reports that the list identified one candidate to be purged as a Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) official, thus compromising the operative's confidential role in violation of U.S. regulations.

EXCERPTED